



## **Glossary of Camp Terms**

### **Autism Specific Camps**

These are specialty camps that provide children and adolescents with autism the opportunity to befriend others with similar needs. These camps serve only individuals on the spectrum and as a result, they can teach certain social skills and behavior strategies to specifically benefit people with autism.

### **Day Camps**

Day camps provide individuals with special needs the opportunity to socialize and participate in recreational activities during the day, and go home to their families and loved ones overnight. These camps are recommended for individuals with autism who are looking for a fun summer but are not looking to leave the comfort of their own homes for an extended period of time.

### **Diverse Special Needs Camps**

Other camps welcome a broad range of special needs, allowing for a diverse environment where individual needs can interact with others with a variety of conditions. Camp Arrowhead in Natick, MA, for example, serves individuals age 5 to adult with disabilities ranging from ADHD to a terminal illness, says John Marshall, program coordinator at the Natick Recreation Department.

### **Extended School Year Programs**

Extended School Year (ESY) program is offered through your school district. ESY is a federally funded option for kids whose skills are likely to regress during extended breaks. If your child does qualify, he or she may be eligible for a free summer program. Transportation is included.

### **Inclusive Camps**

Inclusive camps serve children with and without disabilities. Parents whose children are integrated academically during the school year may choose an inclusive camp, recognizing that their child enjoys and succeeds in this type of environment.

### **Residential Camps**

Summer camps can be day camps or residential (overnight) camps, and can vary in length from less than one week to multiple weeks. For children and adults comfortable enough to spend time away from home, residential camps can provide a wonderful opportunity to fully immerse themselves in a new environment, and interact with other individuals with specialized needs on a round the clock schedule.

### **Sports Camps**

Sports camps allow individuals with autism the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sports on a day-to-day or residential basis. These camps very often lead to big improvements in individuals' physical capabilities which can help increase the confidence of both children and adults with special needs.

### **Young Adults / Adults Camps**

A number of camps serve young adults and adults with special needs. These camps allow adults with special needs to socialize and enjoy recreational activities with other adults with similar conditions. They also help encourage independence and provide an opportunity for adults and adolescents to take a relaxing and fun-filled break from their everyday lives.